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StarTribune

BIDEN 224 — TRUMP 213

BALLOT OVERTIME

3 KEY HEARTLAND STATES STILL COUNTING

Biden takes Minnesota; Smith retains her Senate seat

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Michael Lindsay, at center, a Ramsey County employee, and volunteer Carlos Remigio, right, a volunteer, unloaded sealed ballot boxes and voting materials at the Ramsey County Elections Office.

THE PRESIDENT

Tight races in battleground states

By SHANE GOLDMACHER and ADAM NAGOURNEY
New York Times

President Donald Trump won a series of key battlegrounds early on Wednesday morning, including Florida, Ohio and Iowa, as Joe Biden expressed confidence he would ultimately prevail in a series of key Northern states and Arizona as the presidential contest turned into a state-by-state slog that could drag deeper into the week.

"We believe we are on track to win this election," Biden said in a brief speech after 11:30 p.m., saying he was "optimistic" about the outcome once all the votes were counted.

So far, Trump was holding off Biden in two Southern states that the former vice president had hoped to snatch back from the Republican column: Georgia and North Carolina. These were not must-win states for Biden, but he spent heavily in both states and visited them in the final stretch of the campaign.

Shortly after Biden spoke, Trump responded on Twitter, misleadingly saying he was "up big" and claiming without evidence that "they are trying to STEAL the election." Twitter immediately marked it as content that was "disputed and might be misleading."

The most encouraging sign on the map for Biden was in Arizona, where he was leading in a state that Trump won in 2016. He won New Hampshire and Minnesota, two states that Hillary Clinton had only narrowly carried four years ago and that Trump had once hoped to flip in 2020.

"We're going to win this," Biden said, urging "patience."

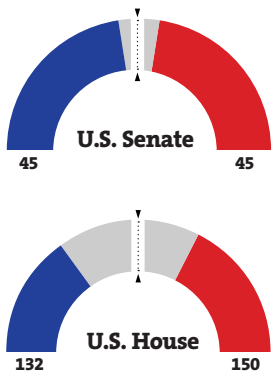
Campaign officials signaled that Biden's team was preparing to wait for votes to be counted in three Northern battlegrounds that Trump carried in 2016 — Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin —

See **PRESIDENT** on A4 ►

States to watch
Michigan, Wisconsin and Pa. may tip race. **A3**

U.S. House
Fischbach upsets Peterson in 7th District. **A12**

BALANCE OF POWER



Key races: **A8**, **A13**

ACROSS THE U.S.

Divided nation unites to vote

By MARC FISHER, ANNIE GOWEN and HANNAH KNOWLES • Washington Post

On Election Day, finally, there was near-unanimity about one thing: 2020 is an ugly, mean bear, and Americans mean to do something about it.

In the ninth month of spending way too much time at home — when for many millions there was no real school, no church to go to, no work — people were determined to vote, which they did in unimaginable, perhaps unprecedented, numbers.

When the anxiously awaited day finally came, there was hope in Atlanta, where Raheem Nas, having concluded that "the state of our country is unacceptable," cast his ballot for Joe Biden. Nas, 40, said he acted for his 6-year-old son and out of his own belief that Biden could heal America's wounds and make it safe for a Black man like him to "change my damn tire on the freeway without getting killed."

There was fear in Hoover, Ala., where Shannon Zuniga, a 64-year-old catering company employee, said Biden's election would mean socialism, unrest, "total chaos." She voted to keep President

See **NATION** on A5 ►

IN MINNESOTA

State stays blue at top of ticket

By PATRICK CONDON
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Former Vice President Joe Biden carried Minnesota in the presidential race on Tuesday, holding the state against a concerted push by President Donald Trump to flip its longstanding political preference for Democrats in national elections.

Biden led Trump by nearly 200,000 votes with more than two-thirds of precincts statewide reporting. The Democrat racked up a lopsided margin in Hennepin County but also appeared poised to win back at least a few greater Minnesota counties Trump carried four years ago.

Minnesota's 10 electoral votes could prove pivotal for Biden in what appeared to be an extremely tight nationwide battle with Trump.

The state found itself this year in an unusual position as a target for both presidential campaigns. Biden and Trump alike swung through the state

See **MINNESOTA** on A6 ►

MORE COVERAGE

Fierce fight for U.S. Senate
Republicans faced tough map to hold their majority. **A8**

U.S. House not likely to flip
Most observers agreed GOP was playing defense. **A13**

Legislature hangs in balance
Will state have divided government or a DFL trifecta? **A20**

Smith keeps Senate seat
She survived challenge by former U.S. Rep. Jason Lewis. **A9**

Tradition trumps virus
Minnesota voters streamed to polls despite pandemic. **A15**